

HOOPER+WARREN PRINT SHOP
EDWARDSVILLE ILLINOIS
MADISON Co

HABS. NO. ILL.-238

HABS
ILL,

60-EDVI,

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
DISTRICT NO. ILL. 2

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
• EDGAR E. LUNDEEN - DISTRICT OFFICER •
CORN BELT BANK BUILDING - BLOOMINGTON ILL.

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HOOPER WARREN'S PRINT SHOP
Edwardsville, Madison County, Illinois

Owner. Mrs. William Ackerman.

Date of Erection. About 1819.

Architect. None.

Builder. Unknown.

Present Condition. The building is fairly well preserved and unchanged, except that the front bay windows have been removed and a small porch added.

Number of Stories. Two.

Materials of Construction. Brick foundations and oak framing with pine siding on the exterior. The interior walls are plaster and the floors are pine. Tin sheet metal and composition shingle roof.

Other Existing Records. None located.

Additional Data. Except that the front windows no longer extend beyond the house and a small porch has been added, the building is practically as it was in Hooper Warren's day. The stairway to the upper story was built so exceptionally narrow that in the fifties when the cholera epidemic took off the owner of the building, William Peel, his confined body could not be carried down the stairs, and there was considerable excitement in the town until

someone was found brave enough to carry the cholera impregnated body down the stairs without the protection of a coffin.

Here Hooper Warren, quiet man of few and thoughtful words, came in March 1819, to publish "The Spectator", and to wage through it a fearless battle against slavery, and particularly the pro-slavery "Republican," also published in Edwardsville. Beside him worked George Churchill, both so relentless in the war of words they waged that their writings, copied in other papers through the country, together with contributions from such men as Gov. Coles, leader of the Anti-Convention party, made "The Spectator" the most forceful paper this side of the Alleghenies. The controversy aroused bitter personal feelings between the publishers of the contending newspapers, and one day Theophilus Smith, editor of "The Republican", appeared at Hooper Warren's shop with a cowhide. Smith wanted the cowhiding to be a public one and was followed by a crowd. But Smith was unable to get the expected control of the situation, so drew his dirk on Warren. Warren forthwith pulled a pistol from his pocket, at which point the crowd decided the fight had gone far enough, and separated Smith from Warren.

Hooper Warren's paper, a five column folio, was the third newspaper published in Illinois, and ran from May 23, 1819, until 1825, when he sold out to Thomas Lippincott. Although Warren wrote his editorials directly into type,

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he turned out a newspaper that was scholarly and neat.

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Reference: Letter of June 20, 1936,
from Miss R. Louise Travous,
Edwardsville, Illinois.

(Approved)

W. J. Lundem

District Officer